

An Introduction to the National Survey of Student Engagement



AIR Forum
Atlanta, GA
June 2, 2009



Agenda



- What questions do you have about NSSE?
- NSSE in the current context: Assessment, Accountability and Transparency
- NSSE overview
- Three core surveys
- Timeline and Administration
- Deliverables
- Questions



NSSE in the Current Context: Assessment, Accountability & Transparency

- ♦ **Greater transparency** – NSSE included in Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA); Initiative with USA Today; Pocket Guide Report can be shared with prospective students
- ♦ **Assessment to inform improvements in teaching and learning** – NSSE results immediately actionable; combine NSSE with institutional data, FSSE, and other measures of student learning to render complete picture of quality of student learning
- ♦ **Accountability** – NSSE items map to Regional and Specialized accreditation standards; use in quality improvement plans



What is NSSE?



- ♦ NSSE annually gathers valid, reliable information on the extent to which students engage in and are exposed to proven educational practices that correspond to desirable learning outcomes.
- ♦ Results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college.
- ♦ NSSE items represent empirically confirmed 'good practices'; reflect behaviors associated with student learning and development.



What is NSSE?



♦ Student Engagement

- ♦ The time and energy students devote to educationally purposeful activities is the single best predictor of their learning and personal development.



NSSE Overview



- ♦ The "NSSElings"
 - ♦ The Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (2003)
 - ♦ The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (2004)
- ♦ Additional Surveys
 - ♦ The Law Student Survey of Student Engagement
 - ♦ The College Student Experiences Questionnaire
 - ♦ The College Student Expectations Questionnaire
 - ♦ The High School Survey of Student Engagement*
 - ♦ The Community College Survey of Student Engagement*

*Not administered by the Center for Postsecondary Research

Using NSSE Results

- ♦ **Diagnostic purpose** - to help institutions look holistically at undergraduate experience
- ♦ **Help pinpoint aspects not in line with mission, or what institution expects**
- ♦ **Identify weaknesses and strengths in educational program**
- ♦ **Help institutions know what to focus on to improve student learning and success**

NSSE 2010

- ♦ Invitation in your AIR Forum Packet
- ♦ Registration open now
- ♦ Register by Sept. 17, 2009
- ♦ **New in 2010** – Census (FY & SR) for all web-based administrations



2010 Invitation to Participate

"NSSE helps us understand some of the most crucial aspects in learning — the nature of student engagement and the prevalence of effective educational practices."

— Stanley O. Bamberg, Professor and Former President, University of Illinois


Register by September 17, 2009 at www.nsse.iub.edu

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

National Survey of Student Engagement

Core Surveys: NSSE

- ♦ Research based on effective educational practices
- ♦ Designed and tested for high validity and reliability
- ♦ Relatively stable over time
- ♦ High credibility of self-reported data
- ♦ Over 275,000 students at 772 institutions annually



National Survey of Student Engagement 2009
The College Student Report

1. Please report on your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? Mark your answers in the boxes. Examples: ☐ Never ☐ Often


2. How often have you thought you could do more to improve your institution's performance in the following areas? Mark your answers in the boxes. Examples: ☐ Never ☐ Often

NSSE Survey Item Organization

- ♦ Q.1 – Academic activities
- ♦ Q.2 – Learning mental activities
- ♦ Q.3 – Reading & writing
- ♦ Q.4 – Homework
- ♦ Q.5 – Academic challenge
- ♦ Q.6 – Co-curricular activities
- ♦ Q.7 – Enriching educational experiences
- ♦ Q.8 – Campus relationship
- ♦ Q.9 – Time usage
- ♦ Q.10 – Institutional emphasis
- ♦ Q.11 – Gains
- ♦ Q.12-14 – Satisfaction

Core Surveys: FSSE

- ♦ Faculty perceptions of how often their students engage in different activities
- ♦ Importance faculty place on various areas of learning and development
- ♦ Nature and frequency of interactions faculty have with students
- ♦ How faculty members organize class time




FSSE Instrument: Survey Options

- ♦ **Course-based (default)**
 - ♦ Responds to questions based on one particular undergraduate course section during taught during the current academic year
- ♦ **Typical-student**
 - ♦ Responds to questions based on the typical first-year student or senior taught during the current academic year

Core Surveys: Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement – BCSSE

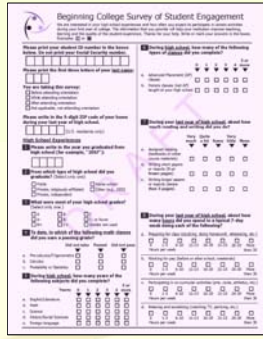
- Designed for **entering first-year students** as a companion to NSSE
- Measures:
 - pre-college** academic and co-curricular experiences
 - expectations** for educationally purposeful activities during college




Registration opens March 1, 2008
Early registration ends June 6, 2008
www.bcsse.edu

BCSSE Instrument

- Launch in 2007 after three pilots
 - 2005-2006 pilots with 80 institutions, 39,986 students
 - 2007 launch – 127 institutions, 67,040 students
- Study effect of students' background on NSSE scores
- Use to examine gap between expectations and engagement
- Registration now open**



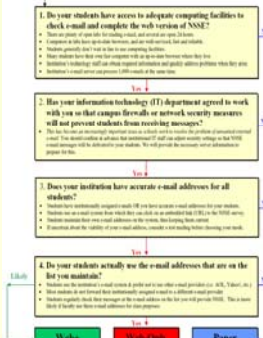
NSSE Timelines (15 mos.)



- May – June 2009**
 - NSSE/FSSE registration opens
- September**
 - NSSE/FSSE registration deadline
 - NSSE materials due two weeks after registration confirmation
- October**
 - NSSE pop. files, oversample, and consortium decisions due
- December**
 - FSSE materials and pop. files due
- Mid-January early February 2010**
 - NSSE administrations open
 - BCSSE registration begins
- Mid-March early April**
 - FSSE administration opens
- June**
 - NSSE & FSSE administrations close
 - BCSSE administration begins at many campuses
- August**
 - Institutional Reports sent, including raw data and printed reports for NSSE, FSSE, and the prior summer's BCSSE
 - BCSSE administration continues
- September**
 - BCSSE data and reports sent to participating institutions

NSSE Administration

- Administration Mode
 - Paper: We need accurate mailing addresses, letterhead, signatures
 - Web+: 4x the paper sample, we need e-mail and mailing addresses
 - Web: 5x the paper sample, we need e-mail addresses**
- ** New in 2010 – Census for Web-based administrations**



NSSE Administration

- Sample Size
 - Numbers are based on mode and school size
 - Oversampling can increase sample size or ensure adequate representation of populations of interest


Required Fees				
Institutional participation fee		\$300 (nonrefundable; waived for 2009 BCSSE participants)		
Sampling fee				
Undergraduate Enrollment	NSSE Standard Sample Size			Fee
	Paper	Web+	Web-only*	
Fewer than 4,000	450	1,800	All FY & SR	\$3,375
4,000 to 7,999	600	2,400	All FY & SR	\$4,500
8,000 to 12,000	800	3,200	All FY & SR	\$6,000
More than 12,000	1,000	4,000	All FY & SR	\$7,500

NSSE Administration

- Things that we need from you: contact persons
 - Campus Project Manager (required)
 - Primary contact; responsible for preparing all survey materials and coordinating promotional efforts
 - Campus Administrative Contact (required)
 - Secondary NSSE contact; responsibilities vary
 - Auxiliary Contact (optional)
 - Alternate contact
 - IT Contact (strongly recommended)
 - Provides technical support; especially important to assist in achieving highest response rates possible in web administration modes


NSSE Administration

- Things for you to consider
 - Broad buy-in from others at your institution
 - Partner with colleagues across campus to spread word of mouth
 - Web-mode institutions: Good partnership with IT department
 - Consortium



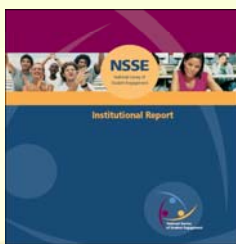
Administration: Increasing Student Participation

- Customized invites
 - Variety of templates with customized options
- Mode - Paper, Web, Web+
- Announcements & Follow-ups (up to 5 contacts)
- Promotion-Tips to boost response rates
<http://nsse.iub.edu/html/tips.cfm>



NSSE Deliverables

- Institutional Report (August)
 - Comparison Reports
 - Respondent characteristics (Demographic Information)
 - Means and Frequencies (item averages and response percentages)
 - Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice
 - Multi-year BM report
 - Additional Reports (If Applicable)
 - FSSE Report
 - BCSSE Combined Report
 - Data file (student-identified)
- User Resources
 - Using NSSE Data
 - Accreditation Toolkit
 - Data Facilitator's Guide



Using NSSE, FSSE, BCSSE: What Kinds of Questions Can be Explored?

- "Thermometer" Questions
How **many** (or what %) students/faculty...?
- "How Do We Compare" Questions
Do we score above or below institutions like us?
- "Comparing Groups" Questions
Do X and Y do certain things differently on our campus?
- "Relationship" Questions
Are those who x more likely to y?
- "Multiple Data Source" Questions
What do faculty and students say about...?

NSSE Reports: Respondent Characteristics Table

National Survey of Student Engagement

NSSE 2008 Respondent Characteristics
NSSEville State University

	NSSEville State		Mid East Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2008	
	FV	SR	FV	SR	FV	SR	FV	SR
Response Rate^a								
Overall	33%	34%	32%	33%	30%	33%	31%	33%
By class	38%	34%	32%	33%	28%	33%	31%	33%
NSSE sample size ^b	1,427	1,545	68,469	64,668	177,681	187,354	589,681	563,463
Sampling Error^c								
Overall	2.4%		0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
By class	3.5%	3.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Number of respondents ^b	513	530	21,626	21,525	49,363	59,984	183,200	194,912
Total population	1,427	1,545	93,467	92,731	210,618	254,974	769,013	755,175
Student Characteristics^d								
Mode of Completion								
Paper	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Web	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%
Class Level ^e								
Freshman	40%	51%	48%	52%	52%	48%	49%	51%
Enrollment Status^f								
Full-time	99%	94%	97%	88%	97%	90%	95%	83%
Less than full-time	1%	6%	3%	12%	3%	10%	5%	17%

NSSE Reports: Frequency Distribution

Frequency	Response Options	NSSEville State		Mid East Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2008	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST	10	2%	1,003	3%	1,917	6%	6,351	4%
	Never	158	31%	9,276	43%	14,476	42%	65,653	37%
	Sometimes	191	38%	7,127	34%	12,442	34%	64,626	35%
	Often	150	29%	3,377	16%	7,030	18%	44,696	24%
	Very often								
	Total	509	100%	20,783	100%	35,865	100%	181,326	100%

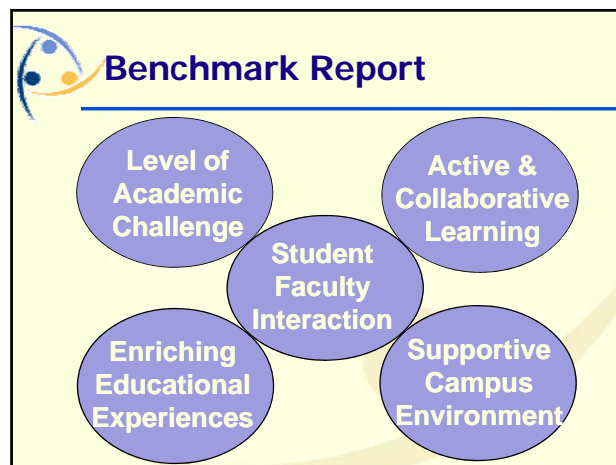
- Frequency Distributions - for a focused look at your students (% that experienced activity)
- Unweighted counts
- Weighted percentages (gender, enrollment status, institution size)
- Engagement items, background items, system/consortium items

NSSE Reports: Mean Comparison Reports

Comparison and effect size information

How similar are our students to those at our comparison groups on "Worked with classmates **outside of class** to prepare class assignments?" What is the magnitude of the difference?

		NSSEville State				Selected Peers				Carnegie Peers				NSSE 2006			
Item	Class	Mean *	Std. Dev.	Effect Size *	Size *	Mean *	Std. Dev.	Effect Size *	Size *	Mean *	Std. Dev.	Effect Size *	Size *	Mean *	Std. Dev.	Effect Size *	Size *
ACLS	FY	2.11	2.34	***	-27	2.33	***	-.24	2.36	***	-.28						
	SR	2.52	2.70	**	-26	2.65	†	-.15	2.75	***	-.26						



Benchmark Report

Multiyear Benchmark Report

NEW in 2008

- First-year and senior benchmark scores charted for all years of participation
- NSSE changes (weight, item changes, etc.) accounted for
- Detailed statistics (standard errors, confidence intervals, etc.)
- See our new *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide*

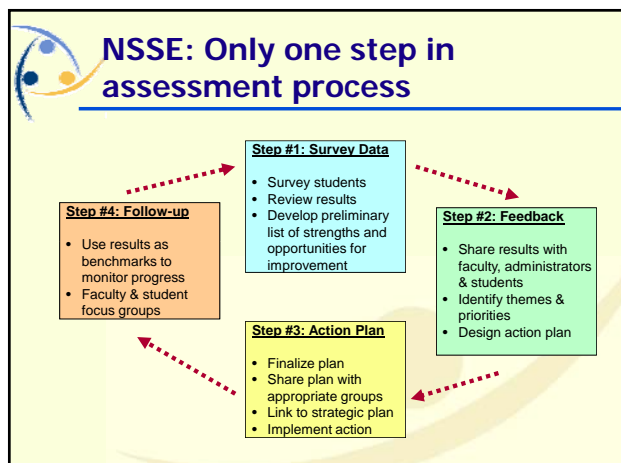
Year	Score
'04	48.2
'05	48.4
'06	51.4

Beyond Reports

- Doing your own within-institution analyses using NSSE resources
 - SPSS data
 - Codebooks
 - Syntax library
- Additional tools and services from NSSE
 - Special analyses
 - Voluntary System of Accountability
 - Accreditation Toolkits (regional and specialized)
 - Multi-year Data Guide
 - How to conduct Interviews & Focus groups

Using NSSE Data

- Problem Identification – results point to things institutions can do something about – almost immediately
- Mobilize Action
- Context Setting – paint a picture of the institution
- Evidence of outcomes & processes
- Refocus conversation about collegiate quality
- Helps inform decision-making
- Provides lexicon for talking about collegiate quality in an understandable, meaningful way



NSSE in your assessment plan

- How often should I administer NSSE?
 - Every Year: Gives you a snapshot of each class
 - Every Three Years: Gives you a picture of a cohort at the beginning and the end of their college experiences
 - Every Five Years: Works well with most accreditation cycles (Accreditation and Interim Reports)
- Other factors to consider
 - Establishing a baseline
 - Costs (using all core surveys)
 - Additional Surveys/Sources of Data
 - Time to take absorb results, make changes

Institutional Example

Austin Peay State University
Find Your Place in the World

- Incorporated NSSE results from students majoring in education into self-study prepared for NCATE teacher education certification
- Student affairs staff in health services and counseling use NSSE data to guide outreach programming
- Include NSSE results in proposals for external funding, such as Title III grants for expanding institutional capacity to serve low-income students

Institutional Example

DOANE COLLEGE

Disseminating NSSE Data at Doane:

- Executive summary of scores prepared for president and vice-presidents
- Report aligning NSSE benchmarks and survey items with long-range strategic plan sent to Board of Trustees, presented to full-faculty, and posted on campus Web site
- Student learning report examining student reading experiences based on NSSE scores that contribute to student performance data. To be presented to faculty, included in general assessment report, and posted on Web site.

Institutional Example: Improving teaching & learning

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

- ◆ NSSE and CIRP pointed to problems with first year students' academic engagement, but WTAMU desired more holistic picture of students' experience
- ◆ Conducted "Student Engagement Audit Focus Groups" – 2 focus groups per college to discover what faculty and students found educationally engaging and identify classroom experiences that were engaging and disengaging

Recent Enhancements

- No changes to survey content (2004-2010)
- Census (FY & SR) for Web-based administrations
- 3 customized comparison groups
- Electronic report delivery & archive
- Executive Snapshot report
- Multi-Year Benchmark Report
- Pocket Guide report
- Weighting changes
- New Carnegie classifications
- Benchmarks delivered in August



Discussion and Questions

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